

---

**NEWSLETTER**

---

## **The Influence of Mothers' Perception of Co-parenting on Preschoolers' Behavioral Problems: A Moderated Mediation Model**

By *Liu, X., & Li, Y.*

Correspondence to: *Yan Li, Shanghai Normal University, China. E-mail:*

[liyuan@shnu.edu.cn](mailto:liyuan@shnu.edu.cn)

**T**HIS study published in *Psychological Development and Education* undertook a one-year panel survey of 170 five-year-old children in 2 kindergartens of Shanghai and their mothers to examine the relationship of children's behavioral problems with co-parenting, parents' marital conflicts, and children's psychological resilience through questionnaire investigation. According to the research theme, the study puts forward the following hypotheses: 1. Marital conflicts mediate the relationship between co-parenting and children's behaviors. 2. Children's psychological resilience moderates the mediation role of marital conflicts in the relationship of mothers' perceived co-parenting and children's behavioral problems and moderates the second half of the mediating path. The results of the study are as follows.

- The regression analysis shows that mothers' perceived co-parenting has a significant effect on children's behavioral problems ( $\beta = -0.17$ ,  $t = -2.40$ , 95% CI [-0.31, -0.03]); The interaction between mothers' perceived co-parenting and children's psychological resilience is not significantly correlated with children's behavioral problems ( $\beta = 0.09$ ,  $t = 1.47$ , 95% CI [-0.03, 0.21]). The direct effects of mothers' perceived co-parenting on children's behavioral problems are not mediated by children's resilience.
- The regression analysis also indicates that the direct effect of mothers' perceived co-parenting on children's behavioral problems is significant, and so is the indirect effect of mother's perceived co-parenting on children's behavior problems mediated by marital conflicts ( $a*b = -0.09$ , SE = 0.03, 95% CI [-0.16, -0.04]). This confirms that Hypothesis 1 holds, that is, marital conflicts play a mediating role between mothers' perceived co-parenting and children's behavioral problems.
- The results obtained by a moderated intermediary model: the mothers' perceived co-parenting negatively predicts marital conflicts; marital conflicts significantly and positively predict children's be-

havioral problems; children's psychological resilience has a negative effect on their behavioral problems. The interaction between parents' marital conflicts and children's psychological resilience significantly predicts children's behavioral problems. The results verify Hypothesis 2.

- Parents' marital conflicts have a significant positive predictive effect on behavioral problems of children with low psychological resilience ( $b = 0.40$ ,  $SE = 0.10$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI [0.20, 0.59]). The fiercer the marital conflicts, the more behavioral problems the children have; the positive predictive effect of marital conflicts is not significant on behavioral problems of children with high psychological resilience ( $b = 0.04$ ,  $SE = 0.09$ ,  $p > 0.05$ , 95% CI [-0.13, 0.21]). This result suggests that high psychological resilience of children can mitigate the negative effects of marital conflicts on their behaviors.
- 5. Child psychological resilience also mediates mothers' perceived co-parenting through the indirect predictive effect of marital conflicts on children's behavioral problems. The adjusted mediation coefficient was 0.08, 95% CI [0.04, 0.13]. For children with low psychological resilience, the indirect effect of their mothers' perceived co-parenting on their behavioral problems is significant, and the coefficient is -0.14, 95% CI [-0.24, -0.08]; for individuals with high psychological resilience (psychological resilience of one standard deviation above the mean), the indirect effect of their mothers' perceived co-parenting on their behavioral problems is not significant, with a coefficient of 0.01, 95% CI [-0.04, 0.08].

The following implications are proposed: 1) In the family, the husband and wife should consciously coordinate with each other in parenting and improve their marital relationship to promote children's social adaptation and reduce children's behavioral problems. 2) Schools and families can utilize psychological resilience trainings to enhance children's resilient competence (such as promoting self-esteem and self-confidence to enhance children's self-efficacy, improving children's emotion regulation ability, developing children's cooperation and communication skills, improving problem-solving, etc.) and promote their self-protection capability.

*Source: Psychological Development and Education, 2022; 2022(5):626-634.*